



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 17

DECEMBER 1968

NUMBER 2

A Christmas Poem

How Far To Bethlehem?

How far, how far to Bethlehem?
As far as thy neighbor's need
Across the aching distances
Of arrant race and creed.
What shall we take to Bethlehem.
How long will the journey be?
Take all the things that you will need
When you reach Gethsemane.
And where shall we stay in Bethlehem?

Where hide from winter's chill?
Tarry beside the manger bed,
But the path leads onward still.
To Nazareth in Galilee,
Over Kishon's fitful rill,
To the temple's lofty pinnacle
And the cross upon a hill.
O turn not back from Bethlehem
Where love and justice meet,
For to kneel at the lowly manger-side
Is to find God's mercy seat.

Homer C. McEwen

Dr. Jesse Dollar Is Honored By The Southern Conference

Along with three other ministers from the area, Dr. Jesse H. Dollar was honored by the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ, with headquarters in Burlington, in a series of events taking place in and near the place of his ordination 45 years ago.

On November 15, 1923, in the annual session of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference, these men were ordained at the Altamahaw community near Burlington. They have each served in many parts of the continent and even Hawaii since that time.

Dr. William T. Scott, who now lives in Elon College, N. C., has served as pastor in several states, as superintendent of the Florida and Georgia Conferences, and the Southeast District of the Board for Home Missions of the old Congregational Christian Churches, and as superintendent of the Southern



A Joyful Christmas A Blessed New Year To One And All

from

The Staff Of The Southeast Conference

Guy L. Colbert

Jesse H. Dollar

Mrs. Wilmer McCord

Miss Emilie Pitcock

W. J. and Carey E. Andes

Official Call

Announcement is hereby made of the meeting of the Seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ, to be held in the Statler Hilton Hotel, Boston, Mass., beginning at 9:15 a. m., Wednesday, June 25, 1969, and continuing through 4:00 p. m. on Wednesday, July 2, 1969.

For the Executive Council of General Synod:

Ben M. Herbster, President

Joseph H. Evans, Secretary

Convention from 1946-60. He recently served as liaison between the churches and Elon College, and is presently working on a history of the Southern

(Continued on Page 3)

The Good News

How scarce good news is! Plenty of bad news — war, famine, poverty, strife, rebellion. Somehow at Christmas, the idea of good news comes alive again. Not that all the bad news is erased or overcome, but that good news can still be heard: "For unto you is born a Saviour."

We even know His name, Jesus Christ. We can know His power and share in His love. What He is for us, He can be for the whole world — a Saviour and a Redeemer.

How ancient these words are. How meaningful they can become in our time. He is God's Gift to our world. But He is so hard to receive!

W. J. Andes

Southeast Conference Moderator Speaks At Association Meetings



The Reverend Olin Sheppard of Roanoke, Alabama, spoke at several of the association meetings held this past October.

With an intense desire to unify the associations of the Conference into a working entity and a keen sense of humor, the Conference moderator was well received by the associations.

Mr. Sheppard traveled far to reach the North Alabama Association near Town Creek, Alabama, on October 5. Then he went to the Georgia-South Carolina Associations, meeting in Macon, Georgia, on October 11. From there he went to Baker, Florida, for the South Alabama-NW Florida Association meeting. On October 9-10, he had the pleasure of speaking to his own association, the East Alabama Association.

The Reverend Mr. Sheppard has a fulltime job with the City of Roanoke, Alabama. He is pastor of two churches—First Church and New Hope Church.

He also takes the time to preside at the various meetings of the Southeast Conference, dealing with problems and plans for the Conference.

Important Opportunity Offered To Ministers

A three-day workshop on "Living With Conflict" will be offered ministers by the Chicago Theological Seminary on January 20-22.

The workshop, part of the seminary's annual Ministers' Week, will focus on conflict in the life of the church and how to deal with it. A major part of the workshop will be spent in considering the specific professional situations in which individual participants find themselves.

Leader of the workshop will be Charles A. Dailey, adjunct professor of psychology at Dartmouth College and director of the college's Institutional Research and Counseling Center.

Participants in the conference will work mostly in small groups, studying the dynamics of conflict, its early warning signals, and utilization of conflict for creative ministry.

The Ministers' Week program is open to ministers of all denominations. Enrollment, however, will be limited to the first 200 registrants. Information can be obtained from Dr. Philip Anderson, Chicago Theological Seminary, 5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Students Concerned About Hunger In The World

Sunday, November 17, Protestant and Catholic students in Mansfield, Ohio, joined in a day of fasting and pledged to skip lunch every Wednesday for 11 weeks, giving the value of meals to Church World Service — CROP. (Wednesdays were chosen because "that's when we have the best school lunch.")

The Mansfield students were among thousands in the state who "marched" to homes soliciting funds for the CROP "Combat World Hunger Week."

The CROP campaigns in all Ohio counties culminated on Thanksgiving with services of gratitude and dedication.

Church World Service — CROP now in its 21st year, has changed its original goal of refugee feeding programs to a major attack on the root causes of hunger.

Belvidere Church Has Sewanee Students Serving

The Belvidere United Church of Christ, in Belvidere, Tennessee, is fortunate in having two senior students from Sewanee Seminary conducting their Sunday morning services. They alternate with the preaching, but both attend and serve in the Sunday morning services. They are Mr. William McGill and Mr. W. B. Trimble. These two young men have also been asked by the church to be in charge of the youth meetings. They have organized the meetings to be on Sundays at 5 p. m. and have been of great help in development of the youth program in the church.

These two young men have also been asked by the church to visit the sick and shut-ins, and this they have done. They have attended the church council meetings and have planned the services for Thanksgiving and Christmas, so the work of the church at Belvidere is going right along. With the services of these two young men, the future of the church seems quite hopeful.

The Belvidere Church is anxious to secure a full-time minister, though they are not rushing into this. They want to secure the right man who will be effective in the pulpit, as well as a good parish minister, visiting in the homes and performing other pastoral duties.

Churches Vote To Have Their Day Care Centers Meet Standards

Day care centers operated by churches should meet the licensing requirement of the State Welfare Department, the Tennessee Council of Churches declared.

At a general assembly of the council, representatives from churches across Tennessee voted to comply with welfare regulations, although church institutions are currently exempt from the minimum safety and health requirements.

(The Nashville Tennessean, Nov. 19)

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The Southeast News

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Buddy Noles Serving As Student Pastor In Maine

Warner (Buddy) Noles, former pastor of First Church, Phenix City, Ala., is now pastor of Carmel Union Congregational Church in Carmel, Maine. He is also a student at Bangor Seminary, Bangor, Maine.

He and his wife are the proud parents of a son, Mark Taylor, born October 9, 1968. The parents report that "He is really a fine boy and is growing like a Southern pine."

Mrs. Noles is also teaching school about 12 miles from Carmel. They are enjoying the beautiful parsonage at Carmel and are busy in their chosen vocations.

East Alabama Lay Life And Work Officers Elected

The East Alabama Association has elected its officers for Lay Life and Work for 1968-1969. They are:

President — Mrs. W. A. Hodnett, Todd;

Vice-President — Miss Nonnie Looser, Lanett;

Secretary — Mrs. John Rhodes, Phenix City;

Treasurer — Mrs. George Hammock, Todd;

Spiritual Life Chairman—Mrs. Gwen Holley, Lanett;

Witness Chairman — Mrs. Clara Simms, Pleasant Grove;

Christian Education Chairman—Mrs. Mary Harmon, Pleasant Grove.

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DR. JESSE DOLLAR . . . (Continued from Page 1)



Conference (Convention).

Rev. Sion Lynam combined a career of religious journalism and 30 years with Freehold, N. Y., church during his 45 years, having also served churches in Toronto, Canada, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Rev. Archie Hook has served as minister of the Washington Conference, in addition to several churches as pastor, and since retirement, has been serving as interim minister of the Hawaii Conference.

Dr. Jesse Holliday Dollar, now living in Roanoke, Alabama, served Reidsville, N. C., First Christian Church, Newport News, Va., was at Elon College Community Church, on the faculty of Birmingham-Southern College, was president of the Southern Convention, and is now on a semi-retired basis as area minister of East Alabama Association.

The events of the celebration included a dinner in the college dining hall on Friday evening, Nov. 15, attended by families and friends of the four men, a special Sunday morning service at the Altamahaw Bethlehem Church, where the ordination took place, and a luncheon in the college dining hall following the service.

At the dinner on Friday evening, each man spoke briefly of his experience and life, followed by an address by Dr. J. Earl Danieleley, president of Elon College. The minister of the Southeast Conference, Dr. William J. Andes, and wife, attended the dinner on Friday evening to help honor Dr.

Associational Notes



L. Floyd Carmack (left) and Franklin Thomas, co-moderators of the Georgia-South Carolina Associations.



W. J. Andes (left) congratulates George Washington upon his election as moderator of the North Alabama Association.



Olin Sheppard, moderator of the Southeast Conference, speaks to the North Alabama Association.

Dollar.

Dr. Dollar spent a few days in the area of Newport News before returning to his home in Roanoke, Alabama, just before Thanksgiving.

Lewis Appointed To Commission

The Division of Church Extension of the Board for Homeland Ministries has appointed Rev. Benjamin E. Lewis as a representative of the Division to the Commission on Religion in Appalachia during 1969. His alternate as representative is Rev. Wayne Peck of Pleasant Hill, Tenn. Mr. Lewis is the minister of our Sweetwater Church in Sweetwater, Tennessee.

CORA, as the Commission is familiarly known, deals with religious work of various denominations in Appalachia. It is good to know that these will serve as representatives in this important commission.

Pilgrim Celebrates 54th Anniversary

Pilgrim Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, celebrated its 54th anniversary recently.

In honoring the six charter members on their active membership roll, the Pilgrim News said, "Life is, or can be, divided in three parts — past, present, future. As human beings, we cannot afford to live only in one part, but it is also unwise not to relate one to the other. As today we pay tribute to those who brought Pilgrim Church into being, we also remember the tasks of today and the expectations of tomorrow."

The honored members are: Mrs. Winifred Brown, Mrs. J. M. Gager Sr., Miss Anna Grace Roberts, Mrs. Paul Shepherd Sr., Mrs. Stella Wietzel, and Mrs. R. E. Houston.

Another Church Begins Classes For Youths

The Reverend Allen B. Hollis Jr., pastor of the Congregational Christian Church of Langdale, Alabama, began classes for youths (ages 8-12, 13-18) the first Sunday in December.

The classes will be held during the month of December. The purpose is to prepare the younger children for church membership and the older ones for more responsible participation in the church.



National Basic Support Income 1968

as of
October 31, 1968
\$5,927,862

October receipts for the national part of Our Christian World Mission pushed the year's total to \$5,927,862. This is an increase of \$30,987 over the same time last year and represents 53% of the 1968 budget.

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Christmas is a religious festival—and there is a cross in Christmas.

The Christian nurture of your family will be enriched by meaningful worship on Christmas.

Celebrate in worship the meaning that Christ has in your life, in the lives of others in your family, in the life of the church and in the life of mankind.

Association Officers For 1968 - 1969

ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI

Moderator—Andrew Cooper, Birmingham, Alabama
 Vice-Moderator—Mrs. Idella J. Childs, Marion, Alabama
 Secretary—Miss Gladys Varner, Birmingham, Alabama
 Treasurer—G. Franklin Lewis, Montgomery, Alabama
 Representative to SEC Board—G. Franklin Lewis, Montgomery, Alabama

ALABAMA - TENNESSEE

Moderator—John J. Roemer, Nashville, Tennessee
 Vice-Moderator—Carl Stiefelmeyer, Cullman, Alabama
 Secretary—George Hewson, Birmingham, Alabama
 Treasurer—John Fandrich Sr., Belvidere, Tennessee
 Representative to SEC Board—Mrs. Herman Liechty, Belvidere, Tennessee

CENTRAL ALABAMA

Moderator—Andrew Nelson, Clanton, Alabama
 Vice-Moderator—Winston Nobles, Mountain Creek, Alabama
 Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Floyd Ballard, Tallassee, Alabama
 Representative to SEC Board—Freddie Powell, Tallassee, Alabama

EAST ALABAMA

Moderator—Ralph Worley, Roanoke, Alabama
 Vice-Moderator—Allen Hollis, Langdale, Alabama
 Secretary—Paul Beaird, Lanett, Alabama
 Treasurer—Ross McCormack, Lineville, Alabama
 Area Minister—Jesse H. Dollar, Roanoke, Alabama
 Representative to SEC Board—

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA (CS and SEC)

Co-Moderators—Franklin Thomas, Atlanta, Georgia, L. Floyd Carmack, Jonesboro, Georgia
 Co-Scribes—Mrs. Mollie N. Curtright, Savannah, Georgia, Mrs. K. C. Johnson, Atlanta, Georgia
 Co-Treasurers—J. B. Wright, Savannah, Georgia, Robert Hendrix, Waycross, Georgia
 Representatives to SEC Board—Joseph E. Boone, Atlanta, Georgia, Warren L. Smith, Waycross, Georgia

NORTH ALABAMA

Moderator—George Washington, Attalla, Alabama
 Vice-Moderator—George Fidler, Cullman, Alabama
 Scribe-Treasurer—Guy L. Colbert, Hartselle, Alabama
 Pastor-at-Large and Representative to SEC Board—Guy L. Colbert, Hartselle, Alabama

SOUTH ALABAMA and NW FLORIDA

Moderator—Arthur Wallace, Andalusia, Alabama
 Vice-Moderator—Mrs. Virada Brand, Andalusia, Alabama
 Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. Bernice Ellis, Bonifay, Florida
 Representative to SEC Board—Andy Anderson, Andalusia, Alabama

TENNESSEE - KENTUCKY

Moderator—W. R. Winterbottom, Crossville, Tennessee
 Vice-Moderator—Annie Campbell, Robbins, Tennessee
 Secretary—Yubenia Prigmore, Sweetwater, Tennessee
 Treasurer—Herschel Franks, Chattanooga, Tennessee
 Representative to SEC Board—Mrs. Arnold Slater, Chattanooga, Tennessee

World Hunger Is A Major Concern Of Board For World Ministries

The shadow of world hunger turned out to be one of the main concerns overhanging the 159th annual meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries, held in November in Greensboro, North Carolina.

World hunger will probably be the "greatest specter that faces us in the next 20 years," stated the chairman of the board's budget committee, Charles T. Bonos Jr. "Our World Service Division will have this as a special emphasis in 1969," he added.

Mr. Bonos also reported that the board adopted a 1969 budget of \$6,600,000 — an increase of \$100,000 over the current year.

The death rate in strife-torn Biafra is expected to mount to more than 20,000 a day in December, Dr. B. Kenneth Anthony, associate general secretary for service, told the board. He indicated that the churches have subsidized over 500 flights laden with food and medical supplies.

Why You Should Read The United Church Herald

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"Douglass' Law" Identifies An Issue

"Ecclesiastical authority is infinite-expansible and will occupy all space, time and budget from which missionary concerns can be driven. It is therefore to be resisted."

This is the new "Douglass' Law," offered by the Reverend Truman B. Douglass in his valedictory address to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries as "a religious correlative of Parkinson's Law."

Speaking for himself and many in the denomination who appreciate the creative work of the Board for Homeland Ministries, Dr. Douglass said there must be "no erosion of the freedom of this board to make decisions, run risks, make mistakes, and commit whatever forces it can summon to the missionary task."

Dr. Douglass has served the board for 25 years. He retires at the end of 1968. He will be succeeded by the Reverend Dr. Howard E. Spragg, now treasurer of the board.

Christmas Fund Aids Retired Ministers

The retired ministers of our fellowship who are in need are the recipients of the annual Christmas Fund. Yearly, thousands of persons and churches reaffirm their fellowship with these contemporary heroes of the faith.

Through your gifts the Pension Boards provide direct, tangible help for those with small pensions, based on small salaries, whose purchasing power is reduced by inflation, or whose emergency needs could be devastating. The Christmas Fund goes out in Christmas checks and, when there is need, in emergency grants.

This year all Christmas Fund activity and all emergency relief matters are handled from the unified offices of The Pensions Boards in New York. Checks should be sent directly to The Pension Boards—United Church of Christ, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10010.

Progress Being Made On Realignment Of Associations

With the present nine associations in the Southeast Conference, it takes the entire month of October for the conference minister to attend all of the meetings — plus many other days, working with committees and programs of these associations.

Throughout the Conference, many feel the need to realign the associations and to lessen the number of associations.

The moderators of the associations met last June and recommended the nine be realigned into three: North Alabama - Tennessee, South Alabama (including NW Florida and one church in Mississippi), and Georgia - South Carolina.

"Program fellowship areas" within the three associations were also proposed. These would be developed as the need for them arose. The "program fellowship areas" could be the most important part of the planned realignment or they could be of minimum use, depending upon the local churches in each area.

The proposed realignment has been seriously discussed by all associations. The general feeling was that the officers of each of the existing nine associations should meet with the officers of the other associations in their proposed area to confer and to develop a constitution — or to make other proposals which may be needed.

The two Georgia-South Carolina Associations met in Macon and were eager to get on with the joy of being one association. They elected officers for each of the associations, but directed their officers to work as though they were one association. The area included in the Georgia - South Carolina Associations is large, but working as a unit, the churches expect to be more effective servants of God.

The realignment proposal will again be discussed by the Board of Directors at their meeting on February 12, 1969. Following that meeting, there should be further progress on realignment by the associations themselves.



Mrs. Ardelle Appointed As The Director Of Higher Education Program

Mrs. Toni Ardelle has joined the staff of the United Church of Christ Committee for Racial Justice as director of its national higher education program.

The education program, described as a "bridge between the ghetto and the college," was established to help qualified young people from minority groups obtain a college education.

It offers full scholarships to the student, financed jointly by the college and the Committee for Racial Justice. Participating colleges are asked to enroll a minimum of ten scholarship students annually.

According to Mrs. Ardelle, the program will seek out high school students on the basis of need and promise, rather than on scholastic record or church affiliation.

She will enlist grass roots aid all over the country in locating qualified black, Indian-American, Puerto Rican, and Mexican-American students for the program.

While Mrs. Ardelle will work primarily with the 32 colleges related to the United Church of Christ, she will not confine her efforts to them.